

R E M A R K S

The office action of December 5, 2003 has been reviewed and its contents carefully noted. Reconsideration of this case, as amended, is requested. Claims 1 through 58 remain in this case, claims 1, 3-6, 8, 11, 12, 26 and 30-53 being amended, claim 2 being cancelled, and claims 54-58 being added by this response.

No new matter has been added. More specifically, claims 54-58 are fully supported by Figures 6 and 7, the specification on page 2, lines 23-25 and page 4, lines 4-6, page 6, line 7 to page 7, line 13, and page 8, lines 1-14, and claims 6 and 15, as filed.

Claim numbers 28 and 29 were repeated twice in the case as filed. Claims 30-53 have been amended to correct the resulting numbering errors in the claims. No new matter has been added.

The numbered paragraphs below correspond to the numbered paragraphs in the Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

2. Claims 2-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for being indefinite. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, and 11 have been amended to overcome this rejection.

Specifically, claims 1 (which now incorporates the limitations of claim 2), 4, and 11 were amended according to the Examiner's suggestions. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 3-11 are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

7. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bailey (U.S. 2,072,807). Although Applicant respectfully disagrees, in order to further prosecution of the application, the limitations of claim 2 have been incorporated into amended claim 1 to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner stated that claims 2-11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the intervening claims (present office action dated December 5, 2003, page 3, lines 11-13).

Amended claim 1 now includes the limitations of claim 2. Claim 1 has also been amended to further clarify the claim. The amendments are fully supported by the specification on page 5, lines 16-17 and page 6, line 1-2, and claim 2, as filed. No new matter has been added.

Therefore, claim 1 should now be allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's statement that claims 12-51 (actually claims 12-53) are allowable. Although some of these claims have been amended, this was done merely to clarify the claims, or to correct the dependencies of particular claims.
10. Claims 2-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Such action has been taken (the limitations of claim 2 have been incorporated into amended claim 1, and claim 2 has been cancelled). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes the claims, as amended, are patentable over the prior art, and that this case is now in condition for allowance of all claims therein. Such action is thus respectfully requested. If the Examiner disagrees, or believes for any other reason that direct contact with Applicants' attorney would advance the prosecution of the case to finality, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

"Recognizing that Internet communications are not secured, I hereby authorize the PTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter of this application by electronic mail. I understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file."

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